



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

STOLT Offshore S.A.

Serial No.: 10/523,747

Filed: February 3, 2005

For: *Method and Apparatus for
Interconnecting Lined Pipes*§
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Docket: Stolt-51

RECEIVED

5 APR 2005

Legal Staff
International DivisionPETITION UNDER 37 CFR 1.10(d)Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

On February 2, 2005 Applicant sent via Express Mail a packet containing a U.S. National Phase application based upon International Application No. PCT/EP2003/009305. The priority date for the International Application was August 2, 2002. Therefore, February 2, 2005 was the final day of the 30 months upon which a National Phase application could be filed. Applicant has since received the Express Mail receipt which notes that the packet received a mailing date of February 3, 2005 instead of the date which it was actually mailed. Applicant has also received the return postcard from the U.S. Patent Office noting the unofficial filing date of February 3, 2005. Applicant assumes then, that this will become the official filing date unless Applicant can show to the satisfaction of the Commissioner that the filing date was the date the correspondence was in fact deposited in the Express Mail Post Office.

Submitted herewith is the Declaration of Sheri Cooper, along with proper evidence of deposit noted in our Express Mail log. After reviewing the supporting documentation as required under 37 CFR 1.10(d), applicant requests that the referenced application be accorded a filing date of February 2, 2005.

Respectfully submitted,



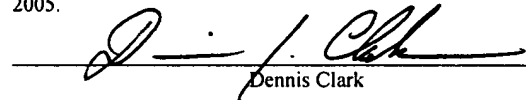
C. James Bushman
Reg. No. 29,389

Date: March 29, 2005

BROWNING BUSHMAN, P.C.
5718 Westheimer, Suite 1800
Houston, Texas 77057
Tel.: (713) 266-5593
Fax: (713) 266-5169

Certificate of Mailing

I, Dennis Clark, hereby certify that this document and all referenced enclosures are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on March 29, 2005.


Dennis Clark



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DECLARATION OF SHERI COOPER

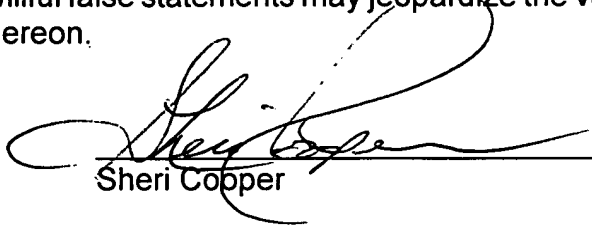
I, Sheri Cooper, do declare as follows:

1. I have been employed as a legal secretary at the law firm of Browning Bushman, P.C. since June 3, 2002 as legal assistant to C. James Bushman.
2. On February 2, 2005 I filed a U.S. National Phase application with the U.S. Patent Office for the referenced application via Express Mail No. EV 317506341 US.
3. It is the practice of this firm to ensure that any Express Mail packages are deposited in the Express Mail Deposit Box located in the basement of our building (Hibernia Bank) prior to 1:00 p.m. which is the last scheduled pickup time for mail from that location. Our Express Mail log (copy attached) notes that the Express Mail package in question was deposited at 12:30 p.m. on February 2, thirty minutes prior to the established 1:00 p.m. time of last pickup at the aforementioned location. The entry in the log book was made after I had deposited the Express Mail package. It is also the policy of this firm that if the 1:00 p.m. deadline has been missed or is even close to having expired that any Express Mail packages be sent via courier to the Downtown Post Office which has a last pickup time of 7:00 p.m. It is my practice to have Express Mail packages couriered to the Downtown Post Office if I am in the least bit apprehensive of their not making the 1:00 p.m. deadline of our building's postal service.
4. Also attached are the two Certificates of Express Mailing that accompanied the referenced application bearing the Express Mail No. EV 317506341 US which is also noted in our log.

Declaration

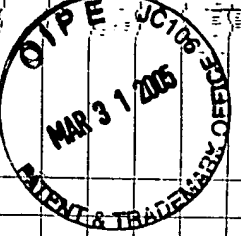
I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

3-29-05
Date


Sheri Copper

2005

| Card | File | Date sent | Time sent | Date Recd. | Place of deposit | Express Mail No. | Time of last pickup | Initial | Day |
|------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|---------|---------|
| E-82 | Sasol SA-9 | 1-21-05 | 11am | 2/14/05 | Hibernia Bank | EV317507506 US | 1pm | CH | 1-21-05 |
| E-83 | Halliburton-140-A | 1-21-05 | 11am | 2/14/05 | Hibernia Bank | EV317503708 US | 1pm | CH | 1-21-05 |
| E-84 | Maxxon-6 | 1-21-05 | 11am | 2/14/05 | Hibernia Bank | EV317507510 US | 1pm | CH | 1-21-05 |
| E-85 | Muller-47 | 1-21-05 | 11am | 2/14/05 | Hibernia Bank | EV317503711 US | 1pm | CH | 1-21-05 |
| E-86 | DAR-174-1-A | 1-21-05 | 11am | 2/14/05 | Hibernia Bank | EV317506355 US | 1pm | CH | 1-21-05 |
| E-87 | Maxxon-4 | 1-21-05 | 11am | 2/14/05 | Hibernia Bank | EV317507523 US | 1pm | CH | 1-21-05 |
| E-87 | Muller-48 | 1-28-05 | 11am | 2/28/05 | Hibernia Bank | EV318465273 US | 1pm | CH | 1-28-05 |
| E-88 | TAM-73 | 2-1-05 | 12:45 | 2/5/05 | Hibernia Bank | EV317506899 US | 1pm | CH | 2-1-05 |
| E-89 | OWLS-8-1 | 2-1-05 | 2/1/05 | 4:19pm | Hibernia Bank | EV317506344 US | 1pm | CH | 2-1-05 |
| E-90 | Stef-51 | 2-2-05 | 2/2/05 | 4:19pm | Hibernia Bank | EV317506344 US | 1pm | CH | 2-2-05 |
| E-83 | 144-6 | 1/21/05 | 12:10 | 2/1/05 | Hibernia Bank | EV318465260 US | 1pm | CH | 1-21-05 |
| E-84 | SD-2 | 2/17/05 | 2:15 | 2/17/05 | Hibernia Bank | EV317507537 US | 1pm | CH | 2-17-05 |
| E-85 | Stef-45-24 | 2/8/05 | 5:14 | 2/8/05 | Hibernia Bank | EV317507537 US | 1pm | CH | 2-8-05 |
| E-86 | Howard-1 | 2/14/05 | 3:30pm | 2/14/05 | Hibernia Bank | EV318465260 US | 1pm | CH | 2-14-05 |
| E-87 | PCB-1 | 2/14/05 | 3:30pm | 2/14/05 | Hibernia Bank | EV318465260 US | 1pm | CH | 2-14-05 |
| E-88 | Stef-5A-4 | 2/22/05 | 12:10 | 2/22/05 | Hibernia Bank | EV317507537 US | 1pm | CH | 2-22-05 |
| E-89 | MI-SWACO | 2/23-05 | | | Hibernia Bank | EV317507537 US | 1pm | CH | 2-23-05 |
| E-90 | HALLIBURTON-143/US | 2-25-05 | 4:12pm | | Hibernia Bank | EV317507537 US | 1pm | CH | 2-25-05 |
| E-91 | ALLEN-1/US | 2-25-05 | 4:12pm | | Hibernia Bank | EV317507537 US | 1pm | CH | 2-25-05 |
| E-92 | PCA-9 | 2-28-05 | 2:30pm | | Hibernia Bank | EV317507537 US | 1pm | CH | 2-28-05 |



Best Available Copy